

Obituaries

Peter Harry Abbott



Medical officer Shell International 1955-60, consulting physician National Iranian Oil Company 1960-64, and general practitioner Haslemere, Surrey, 1964-84 (b Calcutta, India, 1917; q St Thomas's Hospital, London, 1941; MD, MRCP, DTM&H), died from prostate cancer on 20 January 2003.

Peter Abbott's lifelong interest beside medicine was natural history. From 1942 to 1955 he worked for the Sudan Medical Service and he would sit outside at night and harvest the mosquitoes that feasted on his legs, to study under his microscope by the light of a paraffin lamp. A special interest was fungal diseases, and in Sudan he did original work on mycetoma, which earned him his MD and entered the textbooks of medical mycology. In his retirement, he turned with customary passion to gardening and embroidery. He leaves a wife, Mary; three daughters; and eight grandchildren. [SUE ARMSTRONG]

occupational health, firstly as medical officer to various local factories during the 1950s and then setting up the occupational health department at Crawley Hospital in 1961. He was a magistrate in Crawley and in Chichester. In 1977 he was awarded a Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for his services to general practice. Predeceased by his wife, Betty, he leaves four children and eight grandchildren. [SARAH GOSS]

Peter John Ryan

Consultant surgeon Melbourne 1957-90 (b Shepparton, Victoria 1925; q Melbourne 1948; OAM, MS, FRCS, FRACS), died from cancer on 3 June 2002.

After service in 1954 in Korea and Japan with the British Commonwealth Forces, Peter was a senior registrar at Leicester General Hospital before becoming consultant surgeon at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. He was a pioneer in the field of colorectal surgery in Australia, establishing the first colorectal clinic in Melbourne. He was made Hunterian professor for his work on diverticular disease and wrote *A Very Small Textbook of Surgery* (1988). Peter had a great interest in Asia. He led the first St Vincent's surgical team to Vietnam in 1965, and lectured in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Japan. He was a founding member of the Road Trauma Committee, which called for compulsory seatbelt legislation. He leaves a wife, Margery, and 10 children. [ROWENA RYAN]

Ranger Michael Whelan

Consultant anaesthetist Mid-Sussex Hospitals 1960-85 (b Birkenhead 1922; q Liverpool 1951; FFARCS, DA), d 13 October 2002.

Ranger was commissioned into the Indian army in 1942, and served with the Frontier Force Rifles ("Piffers") on the North West Frontier, in Persia, and in the Middle East. He later emigrated to Canada for an internship in Edmonton, Alberta. However, finding the climate there even more grim than the postwar austerity in England, he returned, via New York and an idyllic year in Bermuda (where Ranger met John F Kennedy as a patient). After an anaesthetic course at Liverpool, he moved south via the Hammersmith, to Cuckfield and Haywards Heath Hospitals. Ranger was interested in languages and military history. He leaves a wife, Noreen; two children; and two grandchildren. [T R WHELAN, C B D'A FEARN]

Kenneth Dixon Woolas



Former general practitioner Cosham, Hampshire (b Middlesbrough 1924; q Durham 1945), died from an aortic aneurysm on 3 June 2002.

Ken won a scholarship to read medicine aged 16. When he graduated aged 21 he became the youngest doctor in the United Kingdom. After service with the Royal Army Medical Corps in India and a post as a garrison medical officer, he joined the NHS in 1948 and set up a practice in Cosham, where he worked for 40 years. He was appointed medical officer to the Admiralty Surface Weapons Establishment in 1962 and became internationally regarded for his research and views on the health hazards of microwave radiation. This led to his inclusion in a team advising on the safety of magnetic resonance imaging. He leaves a wife, Joan; two children; and two grandsons. [ROBERT P WOOLAS]

John Laughlin



Former general practitioner Crawley, West Sussex (b Peckham 1913; q Cambridge/Middlesex Hospital, London, 1938), d 19 March 2002.

John settled into general practice in Crawley in 1946. He was a pioneer in local

John ("Jack") Ferens Turner

Former general practitioner Bath (b 1930; q St Thomas's Hospital, London, 1962), died from multiple system atrophy on 25 September 2002.

Jack came to medicine late. He had won a scholarship to read classics at Cambridge but decided against doing so. After national service in the Royal Marines he worked as a land agent for the National Trust, and helped out in the family clothing business before embarking on a career in medicine. He was a keen walker, photographer, gardener, and naturalist. He leaves a wife, Anne, and three children. [ANNE TURNER]

P+ Longer versions of these obituaries are available on bmj.com